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(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: Masashi TAKADA

International Application No.:  
PCT/JP2004/015891

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MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**The Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.